



MEAP

Coordinator Update

Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability – Michigan Educational Assessment Program – Vol. 2, No. 5 – October 29, 2004

Spring High School MEAP Test Dates Set for Academic Year 2004-2005

House Bill No. 6231 was signed into law on Friday, October 15, 2004, as Public Act 399 of 2004. This law amends the Revised School Code to require the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) to administer tests during the last 90 days of Grade 11. The previous law required schools to administer the tests during the last 30 days of Grade 11.

MEAP has identified the testing dates for this year that are consistent with the new state law and NCLB. Spring high school testing dates for the current academic year are broken into three cycles in order to give schools more flexibility for test administration. The testing dates are as follows:

<u>MEAP Spring High School Testing Dates</u>	<u>MI-Access Testing Dates</u>
Cycle 1	March 21 to April 1, 2005
Cycle 2	March 28 to April 8, 2005
Cycle 3	April 4 to April 15, 2005

These testing dates move the testing window approximately 30 days earlier in the school year. The new dates also avoid some of the historical conflicts with Advanced Placement and college entrance testing.

For more information on the spring 2005 test dates, go to the MEAP website at www.michigan.gov/meap.

Please direct any questions or requests for exceptions to MEAP@michigan.gov.

Information regarding test cycles for future years may be found on the last page of this issue:

Join the new MDE-MEAP Announcement and Information LISTSERV

A new MDE-MEAP Announcement and Information LISTSERV is now available to distribute our bi-weekly publication, the MEAP Coordinator Update, as well as other general MEAP announcements.

Current alternate email addresses in the MEAP coordinator database will be converted to the LISTSERV. Only superintendent and district coordinator email addresses will continue to be updated in the coordinator database.

The advantages of the MDE-MEAP LISTSERV are:

1) Members of the LISTSERV will be able to subscribe or unsubscribe from the LISTSERV as desired.

- 2) There will be no need for the MEAP office to maintain additional email addresses in the MEAP coordinator database. .
- 3) The list will be self-cleaning. After a pre-set number of bounce backs from non-working email addresses, the addresses will be removed.
- 4) The list will be an announcement LISTSERV only. Members will not be bombarded with emails from other list members.
- 5) MEAP staff will use the MDE-MEAP LISTSERV to greatly expand communication to administrators, teachers, parents, community members...virtually any interested party who would like to receive current MEAP information. It is hoped that the MDE-MEAP LISTERV will prove to be an effective tool in this regard.

To join the LISTSERV, all that one must do is:

- Send an email message to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.MICHIGAN.GOV
- In the subject field, type SUB MDE-MEAP
- In the message body, type SUBSCRIBE MDE-MEAP <Your Name>

Be sure to replace <Your Name> in the above line with your name,
for example SUBSCRIBE MDE-MEAP John Doe

Please pass along this information to colleagues that may be interested in joining the list.

Assessment Development Update

Winter 2005 Field Test Sites Selected

Previous MEAP Coordinator Updates have described the extensive field-testing that is necessary during the winter 2005 testing cycle to enable OEAA to release all core items each year. In those grades and subject areas that have taken the MEAP assessments in the past, field test items will be embedded in the base test booklets along with the operational items. In other grades MEAP will be using stand-alone field tests to generate items for use in fall 2005.

We have posted to the MEAP website a list of the schools that have been selected to participate in the field testing in grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 for mathematics and 3, 5, 6 and 8 for English language arts. It can be accessed under "What's New?" on the MEAP website or at http://www.mi.gov/documents/Winter_Stand-alone_Pilots_-_Alpha_List_106170_7.pdf.

We have made every effort to simplify administration of these stand-alone field tests. Each school will receive only one test form in one subject area for each of the grades being tested. This should make it easy for the MEAP Coordinators to distribute the materials, and for teachers to administer the field tests.

Please encourage your students to do their best on these field tests, since the data collected from the process will enable us to create high quality tests for next fall. It is in everyone's best interest to make the new assessments as accurate and valid as possible. We appreciate the hard work you have been doing to help us in reaching this goal.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) Review

In conjunction with the Office of School Improvement, OEAA is conducting a review to determine how the Michigan Educational Assessment Program will assess the English language arts and mathematics Grade Level Content Expectations beginning in fall 2005. Several have already responded to the review, which is posted on the MEAP website under “What’s New?” (or you may go to http://www.mi.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_31168-101707--,00.html).

We would appreciate it if you would take the time to assist us in this process by encouraging staff and parents from your school to become involved in this review. You will have until the end of November to participate. Once the assessment plans have been finalized, we anticipate that the test designs will be stable for several years, so this is your chance to be a part of the decision-making process.

Revised Guide to High School Test Reports

Michigan high schools received a document with their spring 2004 High School Test reports entitled “Guide to Reports: High School Tests.” This is a handbook designed to assist educators in understanding and using the assessment results. We have posted an updated version of this guide under “What’s New?” on the MEAP website, which includes updated charts and scoring guides. You’ll find it at http://www.mi.gov/documents/Updated_2004S_Guide_to_Reports_106218_7.pdf Please refer this updated document when interpreting your High School Test reports.

High School Assessment Data

There is a need for clarification regarding the reporting the reporting of high school assessment data. The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) provides reports on the performance of each student for each test administration cycle. The following are three common questions that are often posed to the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, followed by our answers and clarification.

1. *Why don’t the class of 2004 results show the gains that we saw in the spring 2004 comprehensive report that we pulled from the MEAP web site?*

The MEAP Comprehensive Report for Spring 2004 includes only those students that took the assessments in that cycle. The Comprehensive Report may include students in grades 10, 11 and/or 12. It does not include the early testers. On the other hand, the class of 2004 results reflect students scores gleaned from multiple test cycles.

2. *Why are the numbers on the Michigan School Report Card unlike anything we have ever seen before?*

The MEAP reports come by cycle (spring 2004) that include students in grades 10, 11, and 12. For the report card, we split these scores into cohorts by graduating class, based on the grade placement reported for each student at the time of testing. Student scores are used for the report card with their graduating class cohort. Also, scores from MI-Access, Michigan’s alternate assessments for students with disabilities were added to the percent proficient, and scores of students that were enrolled in the school less than a full academic year prior to testing were excluded from the percent proficient.

The assessment results from the normal test administration, at the end of eleventh grade, are used for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) with the exception that students that demonstrate proficiency in tenth grade (fall or spring) or eleventh grade (fall) may have their achievement and participation status carried forward into the 11th grade test administration of their cohort for calculation of AYP and the participation rate. While students are allowed to retest, for scholarship purposes, in the twelfth grade, a twelfth grade score does not count for AYP or participation. This procedure is in contrast to the *Education YES!* (the letter grades) in which twelfth grade scores are counted, and results are reported by graduation class.

3. *Our school had 10th grade students that took the high school tests. These scores are not shown on the comprehensive report for the spring administration. How are these scores reported?*

Student scores are reported with their graduating class cohort. A report is made to the public after senior retests are included.

4. *How should our school report high school assessment data in our Annual Report?*

The best recommendation is to report by graduating class. That will match the state's public reporting.

Michigan Merit Award - Community Service Requirement

The Michigan Merit Award Board recently adopted Resolution 2004-1 which expands the requirements to earn a Michigan Merit Award. Students in the Class of 2006 and after must now complete 40 hours of community service during their high school career. Community service may be performed at any time during the student's high school years, even that which is performed prior to adoption of the Resolution.

Establishment of a community service policy that includes criteria for qualifying community service activities is the responsibility of each school board or board of directors of public school academies, or, at the option of the local or private board or home school, each high school principal.

The Michigan Merit Award office is currently working with an advisory committee of high school educators, administrators and volunteer organizations to establish guidelines and reporting procedures. We hope to have all pertinent information available in Spring 2005. Please visit the "What's New" section on the Michigan Merit Award Web site (www.michigan.gov/meritaward) for updated information about how students in the Class of 2006 and after can comply with this requirement. Suggestions or concerns for the advisory committee's consideration may be emailed to Bob Nelson (NelsonR@michigan.gov) at the Michigan Merit Award office.

MEAP Test Centers

Nonpublic schools that choose not to test their own 7th and 8th grade students may send their students to a MEAP Test Center. Registration information is now available at: www.michigan.gov/meritaward, then click on "Test Centers." The postmark deadline for Winter 2005 registration is December 11, 2004.

MEAP Testing Windows 2004-2007

2004-2005

Fall High School (retest)

October 25 - November 5

Winter Grades 3-8

January 24 - February 11

Spring High School

Cycle 1 - March 21 - April 1

Cycle 2 - March 28 - April 8

Cycle 3 - April 4 - April 15

2005-2006*

Fall Grades 3-8

October 3 - October 21

Fall High School (retest)

October 24 - November 4

Spring High School

Cycle 1 - March 20 - March 31

Cycle 2 - March 27 - April 7

Cycle 3 - April 3 - April 14

ELL assessments

To be announced

2006-2007 (Tentative)*

Fall Grades 3-8

October 2 - October 20

Fall High School (retest)

October 23 - November 3

Spring High School

Cycle 1 - March 19 - March 30

Cycle 2 - March 26 - April 6

Cycle 3 - April 2 - April 13

ELL assessments

To be announced

*There may be issues that arise that affect these schedules. MEAP will inform schools as soon as possible should changes become necessary.

MEAP Contact Information

OEAA web site: www.michigan.gov/oeaa

MEAP email address: meap@michigan.gov

MEAP web site: www.michigan.gov/meap

MEAP secure database: www.michigan.gov/meap-secure

MEAP Office local phone number: 517-373-8393

MEAP Office toll-free phone number: 877-560-8378

MEAP Office fax number: 517-335-1186